

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 07558 222329Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7940
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAHINGEN
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
CINC USAF RAMSTEIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BONN 07558

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, PCAT, GW, IR, SO
SUBJECT: FRG POLICY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS TO
THIRD WORLD

REFS: A) BONN 4235 DTG 081928Z MAR 78
B) BONN 4042 DTG 061903Z MAR 78

1. DURING AN APRIL 19 INTERVIEW ON COLOGNE'S
DEUTSCHLANDFUNK FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER WAS ASKED
TO EXPLAIN THE FRG'S CURRENT POLICY ON ARMS SALES
AND EXPORTS.
2. GENSCHER REPLIED THAT "THE VERY RESTRICTIVE ARMS
EXPORT POLICY WHICH HAS BEEN APPLIED SINCE THE BEGINNING
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY SHOULD BE MAINTAINED.
WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON STRENGTHENING THE INTERNAL
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PAGE 02 BONN 07558 222329Z

STABILITY OF THE AFRICAN STATES THROUGH CLOSE POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION, BECAUSE IN THE END, THAT IS
THE MAIN GUARANTEE FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE AFRICAN
STATES. FURTHERMORE, IT IS BECOMING APPARENT THAT THE
THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ARMS DEVELOP-
MENTS IN THE WORLD. THE INITIATIVE FOR A SPECIAL UN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY CAME FROM THE COLOMBO CONFERENCE OF

THE NON-ALIGNED STATES. AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WAS AMONG THOSE STATES WHICH WERE THE FIRST TO SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE, BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD ARE NOT SERVED BY BEING SWAMPED, SO TO SAY, WITH WEAPONS FROM BOTH SIDES. I THINK THE AFRICAN STATESMAN WAS RIGHT WHO, DURING A VISIT IN BONN, SAID, 'AFRICA DOES NOT NEED WEAPONS, AFRICA NEEDS TRACTORS.'"

3. THE INTERVIEWER THEN ASKED GENSCHER IF IT "WAS NOT INCONGRUENT TO SUPPLY ARMS TO IRAN BUT NOT TO SOMALIA, A COUNTRY WHICH PROVIDED IMPORTANT ASSISTANCE DURING A VERY DIFFICULT HOUR?"

GENSCHER ANSWERED THAT "THE POSITION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN THE CORRECT ONE, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONFLICT GOING ON THERE (AT THE HORN OF AFRICA). LET ME SAY AGAIN, OUR RESTRICTIVE ARMS EXPORT POLICY SHOULD BE MAINTAINED."

MEEHAN

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